

# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS



## Annual Report

### 1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014

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Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of the Commissioner  
1111B Louisville Road  
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601  
Phone: (502) 564-9203



*"Serving those who have served the Commonwealth and our great Nation."*



# KDVA Annual Report

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KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Steve Beshear  
Governor

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Heather French Henry  
Commissioner

September 1, 2014

Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs  
Annual Report  
1 July 2013 - 30 June 2014

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) continued to provide the highest -quality services to Kentucky's veterans and their families. This report documents that continuing progress and demonstrates that our work significantly benefits the Commonwealth as a whole by directly serving our patriotic veterans.

As of June 30, 2014, there were more than 339,000 veterans residing within the borders of the Commonwealth. KDVA serves the state's veterans in four primary areas of support: healthcare, benefits, cemetery operations and specialty programs. This structure parallels the administrative organization of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA.) This report provides details concerning each of these major service areas, as well as indicators of their effectiveness.

KDVA is committed to fulfilling its mission of taking care of Kentucky's veterans, their families and survivors as a result of their earned veteran status. Because of their dedicated and selfless service to our Commonwealth and nation, our veterans deserve no less. This report reflects that commitment.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Heather French Henry".

Heather French Henry  
Commissioner, KDVA

*Serving those who have served the Commonwealth and our great Nation."*

# Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration

## 2013-2025

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs is proud to be the lead agency for the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Commemorative Partnership for the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War.

*In Accordance With Public Law 110-181 SEC.598; the 2008 National Defense Authorization Act authorized the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War and "in conducting the commemorative program, the Secretary shall coordinate, support, and facilitate other programs and activities of the Federal Government, State and local governments, and other persons and organizations in commemoration of the Vietnam War."*

Find out more at <http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/>

Read President Obama's Proclamation at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2012/05/25/presidential-proclamation-commemoration-50th-anniversary-vietnam-war>



### **The commemorative program will include activities and ceremonies to achieve the following objectives:**

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.



# Become a Commemorative Partner

There are more than 115 Kentucky towns, counties, organizations, groups and companies who have become Commemorative Partners. You can find out more about them at <https://www.facebook.com/VWCPKY>.



*Governor Beshear signing the proclamation declaring Kentucky a Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemorative Partner on Dec. 6, 2013.*

The Commemorative Partner Program is designed for federal, state and local communities, veterans' organizations and other nongovernmental organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam Veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners are encouraged to participate in the Commemoration of the Vietnam War by planning and conducting events and activities that will recognize the Vietnam Veterans and their families' service, valor, and sacrifice.

Events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war and the losses suffered by many. Commemorative Partners should communicate how their events will achieve the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program. Events or activities should meet one or more of the Congressionally-mandated objectives of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on objective one.

(See Objectives on page 4)

To become an official Commemorative Partner, organizations must submit an application and a signed Statement of Understanding. Applications are available at [www.VietnamWar50th.com](http://www.VietnamWar50th.com) on the Commemorative Partner Program. The approval process is usually less than 30 days. Partners are kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved as a Partner, the Commemoration will provide organizations with a starter kit of materials for developing and implementing their programs. Questions regarding the Commemorative Partner Program application process can be directed to: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil).

# Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

## Annual Report

### 1 July 2013 – 30 June 2014

#### INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY

In 1998 Governor Paul Patton created the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) and charged the Department with helping veterans and their families obtain all federal, state and local veterans benefits to which they are entitled. The first commissioner began building a Department capable of significantly assisting Kentucky's large veteran population.

*“Serving those who have served the Commonwealth and our great Nation”*

The KDVA motto identifies the Department's critically important mission: ensuring that Kentucky's veterans receive all the benefits and services they have earned. Today, the Department offers free services and benefits counseling provided by a network of experienced and dedicated paid staff, provides representation before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs during formal and informal hearings, and is operating three state-of-the-art veterans nursing homes. It began construction on the fourth nursing home in 2013. KDVA has opened the first four state veterans cemeteries, and is developing a fifth. Responding to an unfilled need, the department established a program to help homeless veterans in 2004. It also named a Women Veterans Coordinator to reach out to that underserved population.

#### MISSION

*“Take care of Kentucky's 339,000 veterans and their 605,000 family members”*

- *Ensure they receive federal, state and local veteran benefits*
- *Operate state veterans' nursing homes and veterans' cemeteries*



*Veterans nursing home employee talks with one of our veteran residents*

The mission of the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) is defined in KRS Chapter 40.310. The statute provides for services and support to the citizens of the Commonwealth who are veterans of military service, their families, dependents and/or survivors.. This group represents more than 20 percent of Kentucky's population.

To that end, we help veterans and their dependents in the presentation, proof and establishment of all claims, privileges, rights and other veteran benefits which they may have under federal, state or local laws. Those other benefits include access to veterans nursing homes, burial with honors in veterans cemeteries, counseling, and specific assistance for homeless veterans.

## **ORGANIZATION**

In January 2009, Governor Steve Beshear appointed Kenneth R. Lucas Commissioner of KDVA. Commissioner Lucas is the Executive Officer of the Department and has the responsibility of the overall operation.

There are three principal areas of responsibility in the Department: (1) field operations and its state-wide network of field benefit counselors; (2) healthcare services provided by state veterans nursing homes in Hazard, Wilmore, and Hanson, with a planned fourth home in Radcliff; and (3) cemetery services through state veterans cemeteries located in Christian, Hardin, Grant, and Greenup counties, with a planned Southeast cemetery.



***Kenneth R. Lucas  
Commissioner, KDVA***

The headquarters offices for all of KDVA is located at 1111B Louisville Road, Frankfort. The Commissioner and his staff are located here. This includes the Deputy Commissioner, the heads of the cemetery and nursing home operations, the KDVA human resources branch, and other support staff. The Field Operations branch's central office is located 321 W. Main Street, Ste. 390, Louisville.

## **FIELD OPERATIONS**

The Field Operations Branch is headed by an executive advisor with a staff in Louisville. The state-wide network includes four regional managers and 20 Veterans Benefits Field Representatives (VBFR). Using this model, and with field benefit offices in seventeen locations throughout the state, assistance is provided to every veteran in need. Each of the seventeen field office serves as many as 19,000 veterans.



The Regional Administrators and VBFRs are the heart and soul of the field operation. These dedicated men and women, most of whom are veterans themselves, provide counseling, advice and assistance to Kentucky's veterans.

All regional administrators and all of the field representatives receive in-depth training to assist in providing the best service to our veterans and their families.

The Field Operations Branch provides continuing education to staff to keep them abreast of the constantly changing rules and regulations governing benefits to members of the veterans community. The Regional Administrators have an in-depth knowledge of federal veterans' benefits law and unprecedented access to federal benefits resources and personnel.

Their tenacity, written skill and verbal proficiency are vitally important to our effective representation of Kentucky's veterans. KDVA's staff, as accredited representatives by the VA, can represent veterans before the VA in formal and informal hearings.

VBFRs maintain regular and published office hours in each county, which they visit at least once a month. They maintain close liaison with local elected officials, local veterans organizations, other state and local agencies, and local media who may be in contact with veterans who require assistance. Paul Hartless, KDVA Staff Advisor and a U.S. Army retired first sergeant, is in charge of Field Operations. It is not unusual for the staff to be called upon to help at night, weekends or holidays. Assistance is always available.

In federal FY 2014 the US Department of Veterans Affairs expended **2.2 billion dollars** in Kentucky. Thanks to the hard work of the employees of KDVA's Field Operations Branch, Kentucky's veterans and their dependents received \$1.08 billion in direct monetary benefits.



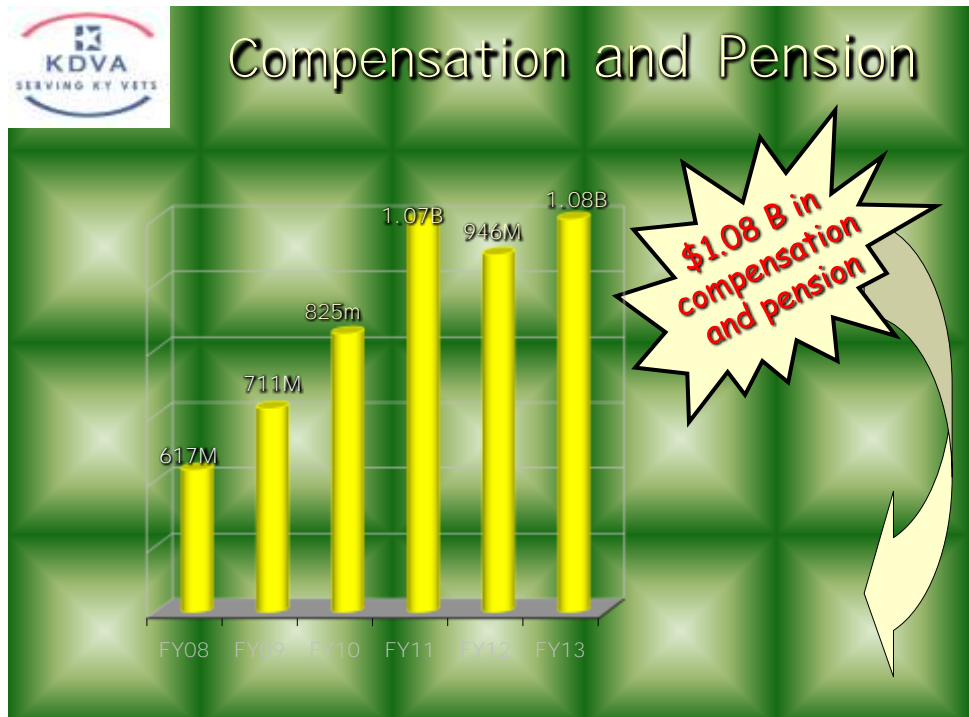
According to the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Veterans Affairs:

"Study after study shows that veterans with representation have a greater chance at recovering their earned benefits than if they are not represented by a VSO, agent, or attorney."

KDVA benefits representatives do not charge veterans for their services.

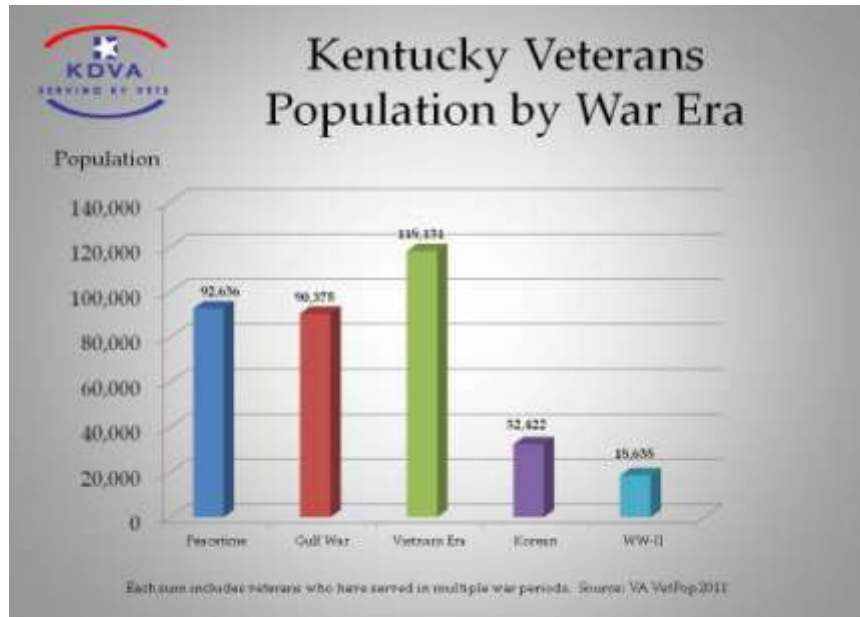
KDVA's annual budget of only \$5.1 million for Headquarters, Field Operations and Cemetery Services) has proven to be a huge financial bargain to Kentucky as indicated above, and at the same time, has helped our veterans and their families obtain benefits they deserve.

In FY 14, the Kentucky State Treasury took in more than \$65 million in tax revenue from the \$1.08 billion in compensation and pension paid to Kentucky's veterans.



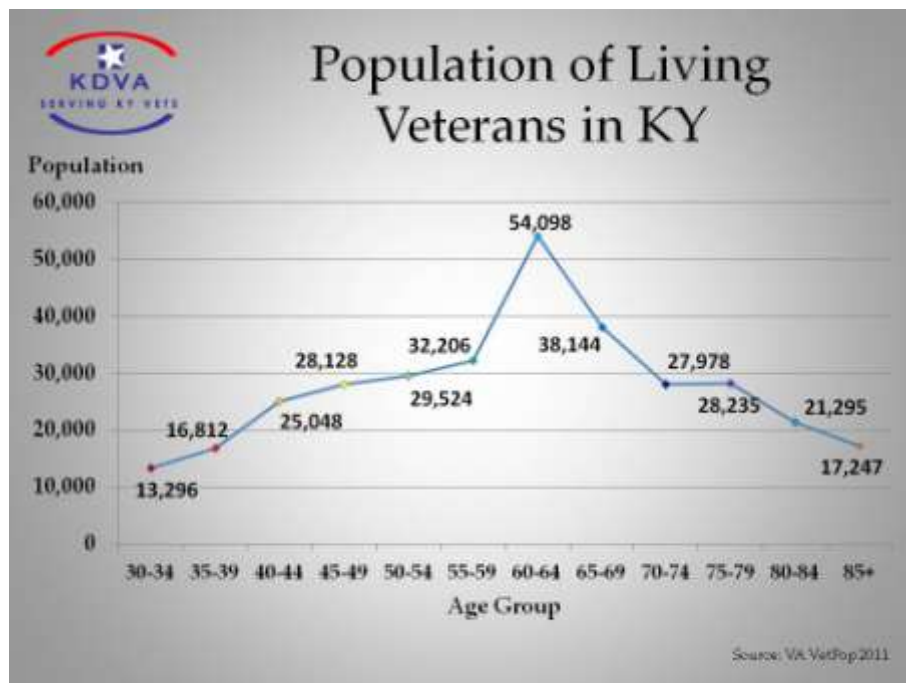


# Kentucky Veteran Population



As of September 2013, there were approximately 339,000 veterans in Kentucky. Of those:

- About 18,000 served during World War II
- About 30,000 served during the Korean War
- About 116,000 served during the Vietnam War
- About 95,000 served during the Gulf War
- 91,000 served during peacetime



A map of West Virginia counties, each color-coded and labeled with its name and a number representing the number of people who died in the 1918-1919 influenza pandemic. The map shows a high concentration of deaths in the central and southern regions, with some counties having over 10 deaths. The background is a green gradient.

County	Deaths
Boone	12
Cambel	1
Kenton	1
Pendergast	1
Grant	1
Owen	1
Carroll	1
Trimble	1
Johnston	1
Henry	1
Shelby	1
Jefferson	1
Madison	1
Franklin	1
Scott	1
Fayette	1
Woodford	1
Monroe	1
Spencer	1
Bullitt	1
Maade	1
Hardin	1
Lincoln	1
Boyd	1
Washington	1
Nelson	1
Laurel	1
Marion	1
Taylor	1
Casey	1
Rockcastle	1
Clay	1
Lee	1
Owsley	1
Wolfe	1
Powell	1
Estill	1
Montgomery	1
Bath	1
Flaming	1
Rowan	1
Elliott	1
Lawrence	1
Carter	1
Greenup	1
Boyd	1
Johnson	1
Martin	1
Floyd	1
Mingo	1
Breathitt	1
Perry	1
Knott	1
Letcher	1
Leslie	1
Harlan	1
Ball	1
Knox	1
Whitley	1
McCreary	1
Wayne	1
Pulaski	1
Laurel	1
Russell	1
Adair	1
Metcalfe	1
Cumberland	1
Clinton	1
Monroe	1
Allen	1
Simpson	1
Logan	1
Todd	1
Christian	1
Trigg	1
Lyon	1
Caldwell	1
Crittenden	1
Wingo	1
Marshall	1
Callaway	1
Graves	1
Curlee	1
Hickman	1
Fulton	1
Union	1
Webster	1
Hopkins	1
McLean	1
Davess	1
Hancock	1
Henderson	1

- ☀ Denotes VBFR home office
- Denotes VBFR out-station

Revised July 2012

## WOMEN VETERANS PROGRAM

From the founding of our nation, women have protected America's freedom and continue to do so in ever increasing numbers. Women veterans remain historically underrepresented in obtaining available benefits and some may be more reluctant than their male counterparts to embrace their status as veterans.

Kentucky's Women Veterans Program is dedicated to ensuring not only that Kentucky's 31,000 women veterans received all the benefits and services they have earned, but that they receive the respect they have



The Kentucky Women's Veterans Program (KWVP) has been involved in various community events to help accomplish its goal of educating women veterans of their benefits and resources. It has participated in parades, county fairs, states fairs, women roundtables and Meet & Greets to connect with a diverse group of women veterans.

The goal is to reach even more women veterans as possible in FY 15, and work with them to make sure the Commonwealth does "Hear Our Voices".

### *Women Veterans Database and Email Distribution*

The Women Veteran Coordinator maintains a confidential database of Kentucky women veterans who wish to receive information about benefits, resources, events and activities of interest to women veterans. Our goal is to reach at least 75 percent of women veterans in Kentucky in order to create a strong network. KDVA strongly encourages women who have served in the military to join the Kentucky Women Veterans database by emailing Angela Worley at [Angela.Worley@ky.gov](mailto:Angela.Worley@ky.gov).

*"Let the generations know that women in uniform also guaranteed their freedom. That our resolve was just as great as the brave men who stood among us. And with victory our hearts were just as full and beat just as fast - that the tears fell just as hard - For those we left behind."*

**Army Nurse WWII**



## **HOMELESS VETERANS PROGRAM**

In April 2014, KDVA celebrated the ninth anniversary of its Homeless Veterans Transition Facility at the Leestown Campus of the Lexington VA Medical Center, created in partnership with Volunteers of America.



As of June 30, 2014, the Leestown program had graduated 173 (11 in FY14) veterans who were once homeless and with drug problems, helping them become drug and alcohol free, and obtain stable housing and steady employment. FY 2014 offered continued success as 89 veterans received services at the 40 bed capacity. In October 2013, St. James Place apartments in Lexington celebrated the seventh year of operation with all 38 efficiency apartment units (that can be occupied by men and women veterans) homeless veterans fully occupied. These units receive support from the USDVA Homeless Veterans Grant & Per Diem Program. Each unit is complete with kitchen and private bath giving the veterans more independence. Lexington also served 30 male veterans at the Hope Center facility which is part of a larger program for the homeless. In addition, the Hope Center added five beds for female veterans on their women's campus.

Interlink Counseling Services of Louisville serves the needs of homeless veterans with a 90-bed capacity. Finally, Interlink operates the Landing Zone, allowing up to ten homeless veterans to be taken off the street without waiting if an emergency (extreme weather, for example) warrants this.

St. Vincent DePaul in Louisville provides twenty beds as part of a grant and per diem program. Wayside Christian Mission provides transitional housing for up to 10 men, four women, and two families. These family units, unique in the Commonwealth, allow the veteran to bring a spouse and children into the unit. Finally, the Salvation Army provided housing for 27 male veterans in the newly renovated old Male High School building on Brooks Street, which is also the location for Louisville Stand Down for Homeless Veterans

In addition to room and board, all of these facilities offer the following:

- Drug and alcohol abuse counseling
- Education referrals
- Employment and job training referrals
- Assistance with permanent housing.

The Pennyroyal Center in Hopkinsville began operation in 2012 of a 50-bed facility for homeless veterans (male), the first of its kind in western Kentucky. The Trust Fund provided a substantial grant to guarantee the success of the Center, made to supplement the primary funding coming from the USDVA grant and per diem program.

Finally Mountain Comprehensive Care opened a 27 bed transitional housing program for homeless veterans in Pikeville that will serve male veterans in the eastern region of the state.

Information and referral programs for homeless veterans are called "stand downs." During this fiscal year four stand downs were held. These were held state-wide in the cities of Bowling Green, Covington, Lexington, and Louisville. With Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund grants to the Homeless Veterans Program, and the coordination of efforts by KDVA, USDVA hospitals, the Kentucky Housing Corporation, and other social and health service providers, these stand downs will help alleviate the already 800-1200 homeless veterans sleeping on the streets of our Commonwealth every night.



## HOMELESS VETERANS TRUST FUND

The Homeless Veterans Trust Fund (HVTF) seeks to prevent homelessness among veterans and help homeless veterans return to permanent housing quickly. It provides small, one-time cash grants for rent deposits, utility payments and other housing-related expenses.

The HVTF represents a beacon of hope to veterans who otherwise would slip into or remain in a state of homelessness.

## FY 14 Milestones

Total Assistance Granted: **92,298.34**

Veterans Assisted: **396**

Family Members Assisted: **394**

Average Amt of Assistance: **\$234**

208 Veterans received rental assistance

168 Veterans received utility assistance



*Homeless Veterans Transition Program  
2007 graduate Bobby Downs.*

### Homeless Veterans Trust Fund Fiscal Year 2014

#### Fund Balance, Beginning of FY14

Carryforward	\$	53,346.05
Revenue		
Donations	\$	2,130.00
Veterans Program Trust Fund	\$	110,000.00
Interest	\$	21.67
Total Revenue	\$	112,151.67
Expenditures		
Total Assistance Granted	\$	94,948.89
Ending Balance	\$	70,548.83

## KENTUCKY VETERANS CENTERS

KDVA provides health services through its Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers (OKVC).

The state's first veterans nursing home, Thomson-Hood Veterans Center (THVC), opened in August 1991. It is a 285-bed facility situated approximately 30 minutes south of Lexington in Wilmore, Kentucky. As of June 30, 2014, there were 261 residents at THVC.



*Thomson-Hood Veterans Center  
Wilmore, Kentucky*



*Western Kentucky Veterans Center, Hanson, Kentucky*

Two new nursing homes in the Eastern and Western portions of the state opened in fiscal year 2002.

The first resident was admitted to the Western Kentucky Veterans Center (WKVC) on March 14, 2002. Admissions to the Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center (EKVC) began on March 21, 2002.

EKVC contains 90 general admission beds and a 30-bed special care unit for those veterans suffering from various types of dementia.

WKVC contains 126 general admission beds and a 30-bed special care unit.

In April 2011, KDVA began building three (3) twelve-bed homes at WKVC. The homes are built in the small home model concept. The homes consist of 12 private rooms with private bathrooms, large family style kitchen with a dining room and a large living room. The nursing care provided will be the resident-centered care model. The new home opened in April 2013.

As of June 30, 2014, there were 110 residents at WKVC and 115 at EKVC.



*Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center,  
Hazard, Kentucky*

Construction of the 120-bed facility in Radcliff, Kentucky began on July 29, 2013. We expect construction to be completed in the Fall of 2015.

During the annual licensing and regulations survey, the veteran homes received only minor deficiencies. These outstanding results are good news for veterans and speak volumes about the hard work performed every day by the dedicated nursing home staff.

## OKVC Costs

Kentucky's Veterans Centers strive to contain costs as well as provide continued quality care to veterans. Daily cost of care (the cost of caring for one resident for one day) is now approximately \$292 per day. That equates to a monthly cost of care of \$8,760 per resident.

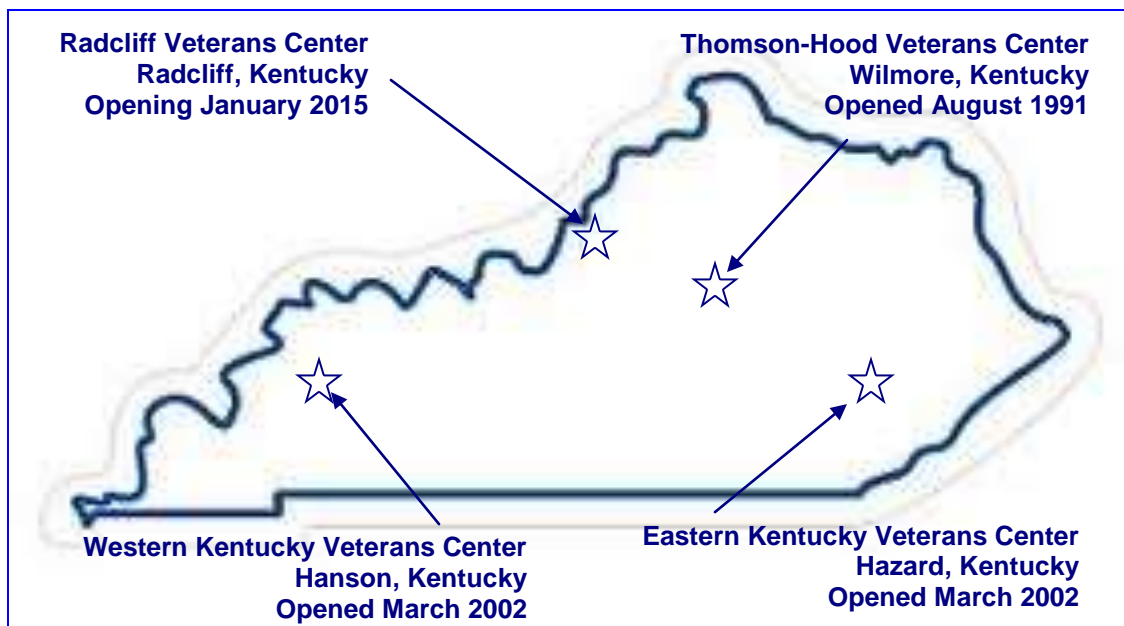
Resident charges account for approximately one-third of the budget for the veterans centers. Another third of the budget comes from *per diem* payments from the USDVA, and the final third comes from state General Fund dollars. On April 1, 2014, all beds at EKVC and WKVC became Medicare and Medicaid certified.

Gilda Hill, Executive Director of the OKVC, oversaw the operation of all three state veterans nursing homes. In addition, she monitored all veterans' health issues through a very close relationship with the eight USDVA Medical Centers which operate in and around Kentucky.

KDVA began building Kentucky's fourth state veterans nursing home, the Radcliff Veterans Center, in Fall 2013.

It is scheduled to open in Fall 2015.

It will provide 120 private rooms with baths in ten home-like buildings with shared living areas.





# Radcliff Veterans Center Groundbreaking



## Governor Steve Beshear:

“Kentucky’s largest concentration of veterans will soon have a place they can get superb nursing care close to their families and friends,”

Gov. Beshear thanked the Radcliff community for all the help they have given to make the groundbreaking possible, and reminded the audience that like its three sister facilities, RVC will need a lot of volunteer support from the community, including help with holiday celebrations, recreation and community events.

Radcliff Mayor J.J. Duvall accepted that responsibility gladly, emphasizing Radcliff’s sincere gratitude and deep pride in hosting the RVC.



**Sept. 18, 2013**

**200 People**

**North Hardin  
High School  
Band**





# Radcliff Veterans Center Construction



Opening Fall 2015





**FACT SHEET**  
**Thomson-Hood Veterans Center**  
**Wilmore, Kentucky**

June 30, 2014

**Size:** Approximately 180,000 square feet with appropriate parking and grounds. Additionally, a warehouse and pavilion were incorporated into the design. The facility is three floors. A \$2.8 million renovation project moved the specialty care unit to the first floor and provided a new kitchen. The facility is located on approximately 60 acres of land in rural Jessamine County.

**Occupancy:** 240 semi-private beds for general admission and 45 private beds for residents needing special care and a secure environment.

**Staff:** Currently 363 employees with an annual payroll of approximately \$19.5 million.

**Services:** Physician, Nursing, Rehabilitation Services, Dietary, Recreational Therapy, Social Services, Administration, Security, and Maintenance.

**Qualifications for Admission:** A veteran must be disabled by reason of disease, wounds, age or otherwise is in need of nursing care; be a Kentucky resident as of the date of admission to the home, and have a military discharge that is not of a dishonorable nature. The facility accepts VA, Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and self-pay. Veterans with a disability rating of 70 percent and above are not charged for their care.



**FACT SHEET**  
**Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center**  
**Hazard, Kentucky**  
June 30, 2014

**Size:** Approximately 90,000 square feet with appropriate parking and grounds. Additionally, a warehouse and pavilion were incorporated into the design. The facility is two floors with two 45-bed units and one 30-bed unit. The facility is located in Perry County.

**Occupancy:** 120 beds with 90 semi-private beds for general admission and 30 private beds for residents needing special care and a secure environment.

**Staff:** Currently 169 employees with an annual payroll of approximately \$8.8 million.

**Services:** Physician, Nursing, Rehabilitation Services, Dietary, Recreational Therapy, Social Services, Administration, Security, and Maintenance.

**Qualifications for Admission:** A veteran must be disabled by reason of disease, wounds, age or otherwise is in need of nursing care; be a Kentucky resident as of the date of admission to the home, and have a military discharge that is not of a dishonorable nature. The facility accepts VA, Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and self-pay. Veterans with a disability rating of 70 percent and above are not charged for their care.

**Cost of construction and initial equipment:** ~\$15.9 million with the state providing 35% and the federal government providing 65%.





**FACT SHEET**  
**Western Kentucky Veterans Center**  
**Hanson, Kentucky**

June 30, 2014

**Size:** Approximately 86,000 square feet located on one-floor with appropriate parking and grounds. A warehouse and pavilion have been incorporated into the design. The facility is located in rural Hopkins County.

**Occupancy:** 120 beds with 90 semi-private beds for general admission and 30 private beds which will be used for special care residents needing a secure environment. Three small home model houses consisting of 12 private rooms were added in 2012.

**Staff:** Currently 178 employees with an annual payroll of approximately \$9.9 million.

**Services:** Physician, Nursing, Rehabilitation Services Dietary, Recreational Therapy, Social Services, Administration, Security, and Maintenance.

**Qualifications for Admission:** A veteran must be disabled by reason of disease, wounds, age or otherwise is in need of nursing care; be a Kentucky resident as of the date of admission to the home, and have a military discharge that is not of a dishonorable nature. The facility accepts VA, Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and self-pay. Veterans with a disability rating of 70 percent and above are not charged for their care.

**Cost of construction and initial equipment:** \$14.2 million with the state providing 35% and the federal government providing 65%.



## **LEGISLATION**

The 2014 General Assembly approved and Governor Beshear signed four bills related to KDVA's mission.

# **Kentucky Military History Museum Board of Directors**

House Bill 246 adds the Commissioner of KDVA to the Kentucky Military History Museum Board of Directors.



## **Korean War Armistice Day**

HR 234 creates Korean War Armistice Day as July 27. That is the date in 1953 that the Korean War ended.

## **Military Experience**

HB 337 relates to the application of military experience towards the licensing of heating, ventilation and air conditioning professionals.

## **CDW License Training**

HB 128 allows honorably discharged service members to waive training requests for a concealed deadly weapon license with certain documentation.

## **CEMETERY SERVICES**

One of KDVA's early accomplishments was to determine the need for state veterans cemeteries in Kentucky. The USDVA funds 100 percent of construction and initial equipment for such cemeteries, and the state is responsible for continuous operating costs. KDVA applied for five new state veterans cemeteries, and in the summer of 1999, both the Governor and the USDVA approved the pre-applications.



*The Honor Guard for a service at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West*



Our first state veterans cemetery, Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West (KVCW) in Hopkinsville, opened March 1, 2004. Retired Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Richard Stanley serves as the Director of the facility. As of June 30, 2014, KDVA had interred 2,687 veterans and family members at KVCW since opening. The cemetery is averaging 28 interments per month.

*One of Kentucky's first veterans buried at the cemetery in Hopkinsville*

Our second state veterans cemetery, Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central, opened in Radcliff June 1, 2007. Retired Army First Sergeant Charles Heater serves as Director. After seven years of operation, as of June 30, 2014, KDVA had interred 3,419 veterans and family members at KVCC. The cemetery is averaging 47 interments per month.

Our third state veterans cemetery, Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North, opened in Williamstown August 22, 2008. Retired Army First Sergeant Al Duncan serves as Director of the facility. After 70 months of operation, as of June 30, 2014, KDVA had interred 888 veterans and family members at KVCN.



*Medals and flag at the service for an Iraq War combat veteran at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery West in Hopkinsville*

Our fourth state veterans cemetery, Kentucky Veterans Cemetery North East (KVCNE) opened in Greenup County on October 1, 2010. Navy veteran Frank Kees serves as the Director of the cemetery. As of June 30, 2014, KVCNE had interred 389 veterans and family members at our newest facility.

KDVA plans its fifth and final cemetery in Leslie County. It will be named Kentucky Veterans Cemetery South East (KVCSE).

## **BURIAL HONORS**

The Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs operates a Burial Honors Program to ensure veterans receive burial honors at interment. The program pays a stipend to Veterans Service Organizations and burial honors programs throughout the Commonwealth to help defer costs of performing honors. The program paid \$136,140 during FY 2014 to offset the cost to these volunteers who participate in this noble endeavor. In 2014, the Kentucky General Assembly authorized \$100,000 for burial honors in FY 2015. As of June 30, 2014, KDVA has honored 21,397 veterans through this program. We continue to regularly receive stipend requests.

**CEMETERY SERVICES****State Veterans Cemeteries Fund****Fund Balance, Beginning of FY14****FY 2014 YTD****Carryforward** **\$ 75,569.46**

Additional Donations 29,856.84

Other Adjustments -

Interest 54.81

**TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS** 105,481.11

Expenditures \$ 57,834.55

**Ending Balance** **\$ 47,646.56****Ending Balance** **\$ 75,569.46**

## **FACT SHEET**

### **Kentucky Veterans Cemetery–South East Site TBA (FAI No. KY-99-03)**

**Size:** Approximately 40 acres located in eastern Kentucky. Construction will include an administration building (~3,600 square feet), a maintenance building (~4,400 square feet) with service area, committal facility and a columbarium. Appropriate parking, road network, walking path and landscaping commensurate with the dignity and honor for a state veteran's cemetery.

**Projected use:** Complement to National Cemetery System, improve service to veterans and their eligible family members, and provide service to remote locations. We are striving to meet a 75-mile radius of coverage.

**Staff:** Estimate four employees with an annual facility projected operating costs of \$300,000.

**Services:** Total interment services include:  
Furnishing grave or columbarium space  
Opening and closing the grave  
Providing the interment site with perpetual care  
Supplying a suitable marker or headstone

**Qualifications for Interment:** Burial in a state veterans cemetery is based on military service. The eligibility criteria are the same criteria for burial in VA national cemeteries. Requests for interment will be directed to staff at the cemetery where burial is sought.

**Estimated Cost of construction and initial equipment:** \$6.0 Million scope. State will incur acquisition costs prior to construction.

**Projected Schedule:**

Site Selection: **November 2012 (Leslie County)**

Architect/engineer firm selected: **TBA**

Phase A Master Planning: **TBA**

Phase B Design Development and Construction Estimate: **TBA**

Phase C Contractual Development: **TBA**

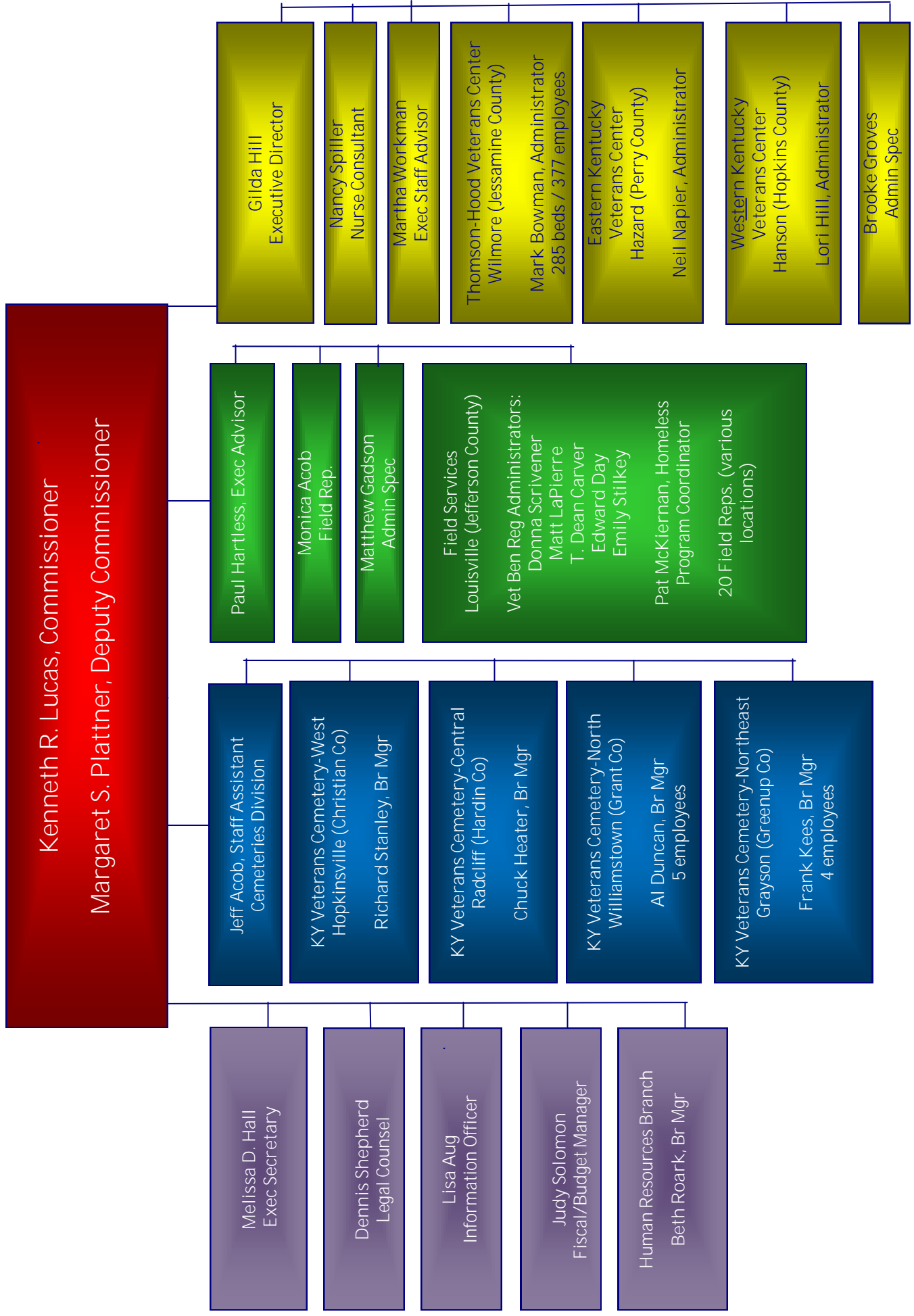
Bid/Award Contract completed: **TBA**

Construction completed: **TBA**



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

June 30, 2014



# Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Personnel Data - Staffing as of 30 June 2014:

## Office of the Commissioner

<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of positions filled</i>
Commissioner	1
Deputy Commissioner	1
Executive Advisor	0
Staff Attorney	1
Staff Assistant	1
Human Resources Branch Manager	1
Internal Policy Analyst	1
Human Resources Administrator	0
Network Analyst	0
Administrative Specialist	0
Executive Secretary	1
Information Officer	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>8</b>



## Field Operations Branch

<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of positions filled</i>
Administrative Branch Manager	1
Veterans Benefits Regional Administrators	6
Administrative Specialist	1
Veterans Benefits Field Representative	20
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>

## Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers

<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of positions filled</i>
OKVC Headquarters Staff	4
Thomson-Hood Veterans Center	356
Eastern Kentucky Veterans Center	169
Western Kentucky Veterans Center	178
<b>Totals</b>	<b>714</b>

## Cemeteries Branch

<i>Title</i>	<i>Number of positions filled</i>
Administrative Branch Manager	4
Cemetery Superintendent	3
Administrative Specialist	4
Cemetery Caretakers	13
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24</b>

## Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund - Accomplishments

The Kentucky Veterans Program Trust Fund (KVPTF) supports veteran-related programs for which there are no appropriated funds.

Examples of how Veterans Program Trust Fund money has been used include:

- Funding the Pennyroyal Veterans Center for homeless veterans in Western Kentucky.
- Funding Honor Flights taking World War II veterans to Washington, D.C.
- Purchase of vans to transport disabled veterans to VA healthcare facilities
- Purchase of land for a state veterans cemetery
- Installing an eternal flame atop the 101st Airborne Division Memorial at Fort Campbell
- Paying the cost of first year operation of the Homeless Veteran Transition Facility

Projects funded in FY 2014 include:

- Provide financial assistance to combat veterans working through the Behavioral Health Program of the University of Louisville and the Kentucky National Guard. - \$75,000
- Establish Vet Connect, a rural veterans transportation program with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet. - \$120,000
- Support the Homeless Veterans Program - \$110,000
- Support program by National Association of Black Veterans to restore veterans' headstones in neglected cemeteries - \$20,000
- Help KDVA host the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Event - \$5,500
- Support the Burial Honors Program - \$35,000



**KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Veterans Program Trust Fund - State Funds 6307 and 6308**  
**Summary Fund Activity Report - Fiscal Year 2014 (July 2013 - June 2014)**

<b>Fund Balance, Beginning of FY14</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>
<b>Carryforward</b>	<b>\$478,262.94</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>	
License Plate Fees (R404)	405,620.10
Tax Check-off (R809)	43,144.00
HAVE Donations - checks sent to F'fort (R802)	33.12
Miscellaneous Donations (R801 & R802)	16,770.20
Interest Income (R771)	343.20
<b>Total Receipts:</b>	<b>465,910.62</b>
<b>TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$944,173.56</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>	
McKesson Medical Surgical - Vital Sign Monitors	21,711.90
Bill Coleman (WES)	1,670.00
Eventualities (Booth rental) (WVP)	175.00
University of Louisville - Behavior Health Partnership Program	75,000.00
Morehead State Univ Foundation - Veterans Expo	10,000.00
Disabled American Veterans - Vans	50,000.00
KY Transportation Cabinet- The Vet Connection	122,000.00
American Legion Post 23 - Van	20,000.00
AMVETS National Service Foundation	15,000.00
Auditor of Public Accounts - FY13 Audit	8,010.00
Homeless Veterans Trust Fund	110,000.00
Honor Flight Bluegrass, Inc.	10,000.00
Military Officers Association of America	5,500.00
National Association of Black Veterans, Inc. - Cemetery Restora- tions	20,000.00
Charles Heater (medal for terminally ill veteran)	11.50
Burial Honors Program	35,000.00
Home Depot - FOPS outreach items	493.24
Alan Hyman Ent - KDVA Printing tablecloths & outreach items	4,235.00
USACares - Support veterans in need	25,000.00
Lowe's - FOPS outreach items	626.62
4IMPRINT - FOPS Outreach items	3,503.73
CHFS - Division of Behavioral Health - Operations Headed Home and Immersion	28,000.00
Owen Funeral Home & Hicks-Vaughn FH - Indigent Burials	2,000.00
Awards Center - FOPS Outreach Items	163.98
<b>TOTAL EXPENDED</b>	<b>\$568,100.97</b>
<b>Fund Balance (Cash on Hand)</b>	<b>\$376,072.59</b>
Bobbie Frazier (Catering for WVP)	448.00
Becky Brown (Catering for WVP)	75.00
Ron Spriggs Exhibit of Tuskegee Airmen	8,500.00
Carter Equipment Company - WKVC Kawasaki Mule	10,579.12
Interlink Counseling Services, Inc.	30,000.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDED</b>	<b>\$ 488,611.14</b>
<b>Fund Balance (Cash on Hand)</b>	<b>\$ 478,262.94</b>



# Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs Financial Statement

## Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2014

### KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FINANCIAL STATEMENT FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2014

#### Source of Funds

##### General Fund

Enacted Budget	\$ 14,123,600
Total General Fund	\$ 14,123,600

##### Restricted Fund

Enacted Budget	\$ 40,397,400
Total Restricted Funds	\$ 40,397,400

Total Budget	\$ 54,521,000
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#### USE OF FUNDS

##### By Fund

General Fund	\$ 14,123,600
Cemetery, Commissioners Office Restricted Funds	\$ 1,220,449
Nursing Home Restricted Funds	\$ 38,723,934
Total KDVA	\$ 54,067,982

##### By Class

Personnel	\$ 44,501,611
Operating	\$ 8,528,216
Grants, Loans and Benefits	\$ 597,182
Capital Outlay	\$ 235,026
Capital Projects Outlay	\$ 205,947
Total KDVA	\$ 54,067,982

Commissioners' Office, Field Ops, Cemeteries	\$ 5,226,049
Office of Kentucky Veterans Centers	\$ 48,841,934
Total KDVA	\$ 54,067,982

*“The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their nation.”*

**- George Washington**

*(attributed)*



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